

most explicit, uncompromising, and solemn manner, in the full aspect and importance which it bears in the Christian revelation, with the directness and emphasis of apostolic fidelity? Why should not a few of the most peculiar of the doctrines, comprehended in the primary one of salvation by the Mediator, have been clothed with the fascinating elegance of Addison, from whose pen many persons would have received an occasional evangelical lesson with incomparably more candour than from any professed divine? A pious and benevolent man, such as the avowed advocate of Christianity ought to be, should not have been contented that so many thousands of minds as his writings were adapted to instruct and to charm, should have been left, for anything that he very unequivocally attempted to the contrary in his most popular works, to end a life which he had contributed to refine, acquainted but slightly with the grand security of happiness after death. Or if it could not be deemed his duty to introduce in a formal manner any of the most specifically evangelical subjects, it might at least have been expected, that some of the many serious essays scattered through the Spectator should have more of a Christian strain, more recognition of the great oracle, in the speculations concerning the Deity, and the gravest moral subjects. There might, without hazard of symbolizing with the dreaded fanaticism of the preceding age, have been more assimilation of what may be called, as it now stands, a literary fashion of religion, to the spirit of the New Testament, From him also, as a kind of dictator among the elegant writers of the age, it might have been expected that he would set himself, with the same decision and virtuous indignation which he made his Cato display against the betrayers of Roman liberty and laws, to denounce that ridicule which has wounded religion by a careless or by a crafty manner of holding up its abuses

to scorn\; but of this
impropriety (to use an accommodating
term,)n:he Spectator"
itself is not free from examples. I

Addison wrote a book expressly in
defence pf the religion of Christ,* but to
be the dignified advocate if a cause, and
to be its humble disciple, may be very
diffeant things. An advocate has a
feeling of making himself important; he

~~*~"<fit~th"e""Evidences of the Christian Religion," &c,
London, 1730* Many editions of this work have been
published.